

A³ cd
over the second filter 22 and a clamp 52, which is over the third filter 20. The gas cover 46 and NEPA cover 48 are attached by a nut 50, whereas the third filter 20 is attached by way of a clamp 52 and a nut 54.

Page 12, lines 3-11, please amend the paragraph to read as follows:

A⁴
The input air originally from inlet 16 of Fig. 1 is indicated in Fig. 3 by directional arrow 62, and a watertight access door 64, similar to those used for the air locks 32, is generally indicated by reference number 64 and forms part of a bulkhead 66. The support for the openings 56 is provided by the bulkhead 68 and the structural support of the outer plenum 58 is provided by a deck 70. The output air exiting from the outer plenum 58 is indicated in Fig. 3 by directional arrow 60. The operation of the system 10 can be further described with reference to Fig. 4.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1, 5, 11, and 14 to read as follows:

1. A system for supplying an enclosed protected zone having air intake means with supply having an inlet and that is filtered to remove contaminants created by chemical, biological or radiological conditions, said system comprising:

A⁵
a) a three-stage air filter apparatus having an input fluidly coupled to said inlet and having an input, said three-stage air filter apparatus having a first, second and third coaxially arranged annular filters, with the first filter being disposed within the second filter and the second filter being disposed within the third filter, and with the first filter being positioned closest to said input and the third filter being positioned closest to said output, said first filter filtering and removing particulates of at least a first size, said second filter filtering and removing aerosols and particulates of a size which is less than said first size, and said third filter comprising a gas adsorber for removing gases; and

A⁵
b) a supply fan having an input fluidly coupled to said output of said three-stage air filter apparatus and an output fluidly coupled to said air intake means of said protected zone, said supply fan supplying an air at a sufficient enough flow so as to provide said protected zone with a positive pressure.

A⁶
5. The system according to claim 4, further comprising an alarm device connected to receive the output of said transducer and generating an alarm signal when said output of said transducer is representative of a pressure of below about 0.5 in. wg.

A⁷
11. A method for supplying an enclosed protected zone having air intake means with supply having an inlet and that is filtered to remove contaminants created by chemical, biological or radiological conditions, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a three-stage air filter apparatus having an input fluidly coupled to said inlet said three-stage air filter apparatus having a first, second and third coaxially arranged annular filters, with the first filter being disposed within the second filter and the second filter being disposed within the third filter, and with the first filter being positioned closest to said input and the third filter being positioned closest to said output, said first filter filtering and removing particulates of at least a first size, said second filter filtering and removing aerosols and particulates of a size which is less than said first size, and said third filter comprising a gas adsorber for removing gases; and

b) providing a supply fan having an input fluidly coupled to said output of said three-stage air filter apparatus and an output fluidly coupled to said air intake means of said protected zone, said supply fan supplying a sufficient flow of air so as to provide said protected zone with a positive pressure within the range from about 0.5 in wg. to about 1.5 in wg.

A⁸
14. The method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of providing an alarm device connected to receive the output of said transducer and generating an alarm signal when said output of said transducer is representative of a pressure of below about 0.5 in wg.

Please ADD new claims ~~18-20~~, which read as follows:

~~18.~~ A system for supplying an enclosed protected zone with air cleaned of chemical, biological, and radiological contaminants at a flow rate sufficient to maintain a positive pressure within the protected zone, comprising:

a free-standing first filter that filters and removes particulates of at least a first size from the air;

a free-standing second filter that filters and removes aerosols and particulates of a size which is less than the first size from the air;

a free-standing third filter that adsorbs gases from the air; and

A9 a blower pneumatically coupling the downstream side of the third filter with the protected zone,

wherein:

the first, second and third filters are annular filters axially nested one inside the other in the recited order; and

the first, second, and third filters are radial flow filters.

19. The system according to claim 18, further comprising:

a filter housing including an axial opening for receiving the first, second, and third filters, and an annular opening receiving cleaned air from the downstream side of the third filter; and

a plenum pneumatically coupling the annular opening and the blower.

20. The system according to claim 19, wherein the second and third filters are held in place by retaining mechanisms while the first filter is frictionally fit into the second filter to thereby permit change out of the first filter while the blower supplying the cleaned air to the protected zone is operating.